

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 2 and 15, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please AMEND claims 1, 3-5, 13-14, 16-18, 24, and 26 as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for charging for services in an IP based communication system, comprising:

establishing an accounting session between a network element and a charging function for the session; and

initiating a change in the accounting session at the charging function,

wherein the step of initiating a change in the accounting session comprises transmitting a request to update the accounting session from the charging function to the network element.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2 1 wherein the request is an update accounting request message.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2 1 wherein responsive to the request the network element implements a change in the charging of the accounting session.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2 1 wherein responsive to the request the network element transmits an acknowledgement to the charging function.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 5 wherein the acknowledgement is an update accounting acknowledgement message.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the network element is a controller of the communications session.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of establishing an accounting session includes establishing an accounting session between the charging function and a further network element.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8 further comprising the step of establishing an accounting session between an application for the session and the charging function.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 further comprising the step of establishing an accounting session between a control function for the session and the charging function.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9 wherein the change in the accounting session between the network element controlling the session and the charging function is responsive to a change in the at least one further accounting session.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the accounting session is associated with a pre-paid charging function.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the IP based communication system supports a Diameter Diameter-IP protocol.

14. (Currently Amended) An element for monitoring charging in an IP based communication system, comprising: means for establishing an accounting session with an application; means for informing a network element controlling an associated communication session of the accounting session; and means for initiating a change in the accounting session, wherein the means for initiating a change in the accounting session includes means for transmitting a request to update the accounting session.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) An element according to claim 15 14 wherein the request is an update accounting request message.

17. (Currently Amended) An element according to claim 15 14 wherein a change in the charging of the accounting session is implemented responsive to the request.

18. (Currently Amended) An element according to claim 15 14 wherein responsive to the request the network element transmits an acknowledgement to the charging function.

19. (Original) An element according to claim 18 wherein the acknowledgement is an update accounting acknowledgement message.

20. (Previously Presented) An element according to claim 14 wherein the network element is a controller of the communications session.

21. (Previously Presented) An element according to claim 14 wherein the communication system supports a Diameter IP protocol.

22. (Previously Presented) An element according to claim 21, wherein the means for initiating a change in the accounting session includes means for transmitting a request to update the accounting session, and wherein the request signal is transferred using a Diameter IP protocol.

23. (Previously Presented) An element according to claim 21, wherein responsive to the request the network element transmits an acknowledgement to the charging function, and wherein the acknowledgement signal is transferred using a Diameter IP protocol.

24. (Currently Amended) A communication system in which charging for the provision of services is implemented in a session, the system comprising: a network element for controlling the session; an application for the session; a control function for the session; and a charging function, wherein at least one accounting session is established between the charging function and at least one of the network element, the application and the control function, wherein the charging function is adapted to initiate a change in the at least one accounting session by transmitting a request to update the accounting session to the network element.

25. (Original) A communication system according to claim 24 wherein the charging is pre-paid charging.

26. (Currently Amended) A communication session system according to claim 24, wherein there is provided a plurality of accounting sessions, wherein the charging

function initiates a change in one accounting session responsive to a change in another accounting session.